We Claim:

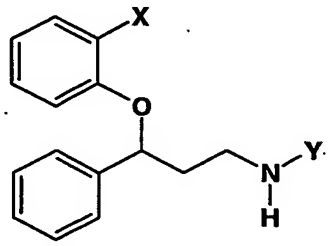
1. A method of preventing or treating hot flashes, vasomotor symptoms, impulse control disorders, or personality change due to a general medical condition, comprising administering to a patient in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a selective norepinephrine reuptake inhibitor selected from the group consisting of:

atomoxetine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

racemic reboxetine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

(S,S) reboxetine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

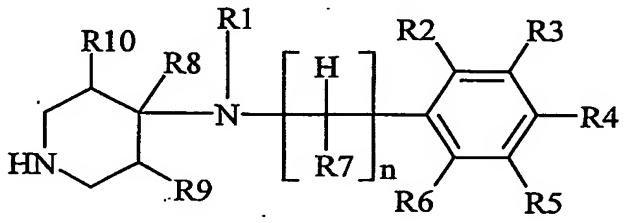
a compound of formula (I):



(I)

wherein X is C_1-C_4 alkylthio, and Y is C_1-C_2 alkyl, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

a compound of formula (IA):



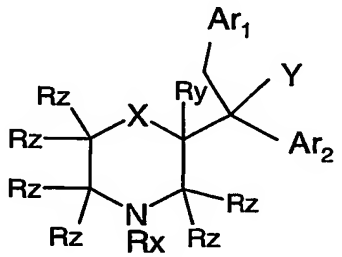
(IA)

wherein n is 1, 2 or 3; R1 is C_2-C_{10}alkyl, C_2-C_{10}alkenyl, C_3-C_8cycloalkyl or C_4-C_{10}cycloalkylalkyl, wherein one C-C bond within any cycloalkyl moiety is optionally substituted by an O-C, S-C or C=C bond and wherein each group is optionally substituted with from 1 to 7 halogen substituents and/or with from 1 to 3 substituents each independently selected from hydroxy, cyano, C_1-C_4alkyl, C_1-C_4alkylthio (optionally substituted with from 1 to 3 halogen atoms) and C_1-C_4alkoxy (optionally substituted

with from 1 to 3 halogen atoms); R2 is H, C_1-C_4alkyl (optionally substituted with from 1 to 7 halogen atoms), C_1-C_4alkyl-$S(O)_x$- wherein x is 0, 1 or 2 (optionally substituted with from 1 to 7 halogen atoms), C_1-C_4alkoxy (optionally substituted with from 1 to 7 halogen atoms), cyano, halogen, phenyl (optionally substituted with from 1 to 3 substituents each independently selected from halogen, C_1-C_4alkyl and C_1-C_4alkoxy), phenoxy (optionally substituted with from 1 to 3 substituents each independently selected from halogen, C_1-C_4alkyl and C_1-C_4alkoxy) or -CO_2(C_1-C_4alkyl), or together with R3 forms a further benzene ring (optionally substituted with from 1 to 3 substituents each independently selected from halogen, C_1-C_4alkyl and C_1-C_4alkoxy); R3 is H, C_1-C_4alkyl (optionally substituted with from 1 to 7 halogen atoms), C_1-C_4alkyl-$S(O)_x$- wherein x is 0, 1 or 2 (optionally substituted with from 1 to 7 halogen atoms), C_1-C_4alkoxy (optionally substituted with from 1 to 7 halogen atoms), cyano, halogen, phenyl (optionally substituted with from 1 to 3 substituents each independently selected from halogen, C_1-C_4alkyl and C_1-C_4alkoxy), phenoxy (optionally substituted with from 1 to 3 substituents each independently selected from halogen, C_1-C_4alkyl and C_1-C_4alkoxy) or -CO_2(C_1-C_4alkyl), or together with R2 or R4 forms a further benzene ring (optionally substituted with from 1 to 3 substituents each independently selected from halogen, C_1-C_4alkyl and C_1-C_4alkoxy); R4 is H, C_1-C_4alkyl (optionally substituted with from 1 to 7 halogen atoms), C_1-C_4alkyl-$S(O)_x$- wherein x is 0, 1 or 2 (optionally substituted with from 1 to 7 halogen atoms), C_1-C_4alkoxy (optionally substituted with from 1 to 7 halogen atoms), cyano, halogen, phenyl (optionally substituted with from 1 to 3 substituents each independently selected from halogen, C_1-C_4alkyl and C_1-C_4alkoxy), phenoxy (optionally substituted with from 1 to 3 substituents each independently selected from halogen, C_1-C_4alkyl and C_1-C_4alkoxy) or -CO_2(C_1-C_4alkyl), or together with R3 forms a further benzene ring (optionally substituted with from 1 to 3 substituents each independently selected from halogen, C_1-C_4alkyl and C_1-C_4alkoxy); R5 is H, C_1-C_4alkyl (optionally substituted with from 1 to 7 halogen atoms), C_1-C_4alkoxy (optionally substituted with from 1 to 7 halogen atoms) or halogen; R6 is H, C_1-C_4alkyl (optionally substituted with from 1 to 7 halogen atoms), C_1-C_4alkoxy (optionally

substituted with from 1 to 7 halogen atoms) or halogen; R7 is H or C_1-C_4alkyl; R8 is H or C_1-C_4alkyl; R9 is H, halogen, hydroxy, cyano, C_1-C_4alkyl or C_1-C_4alkoxy; and R10 is H, halogen, hydroxy, cyano, C_1-C_4alkyl or C_1-C_4alkoxy; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, with the proviso that the compound N-ethyl-N-benzyl-4-piperidinamine is excluded;

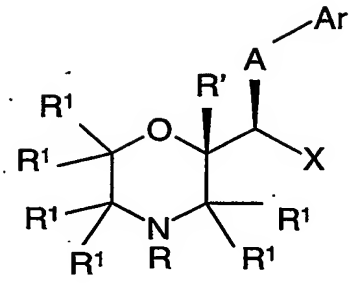
a compound of formula (IB):



(IB)

wherein Rx is H; Ry is H or C_1-C_4 alkyl; each Rz is independently H or C_1-C_4 alkyl; X represents O; Y represents OH or OR; R is C_1-C_4 alkyl; Ar_1 is a phenyl ring or a 5- or 6-membered heteroaryl ring each of which may be substituted with 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 substituents (depending upon the number of available substitution positions) each independently selected from C_1-C_4 alkyl, O(C_1-C_4 alkyl), S(C_1-C_4 alkyl), halo, hydroxy, pyridyl, thiophenyl and phenyl optionally substituted with 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 substituents each independently selected from halo, C_1-C_4 alkyl, or O(C_1-C_4 alkyl); and Ar_2 is a phenyl ring or a 5- or 6-membered heteroaryl ring each of which may be substituted with 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 substituents (depending upon the number of available substitution positions) each independently selected from C_1-C_4 alkyl, O(C_1-C_4 alkyl) and halo; wherein each above-mentioned C_1-C_4 alkyl group is optionally substituted with one or more halo atoms; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

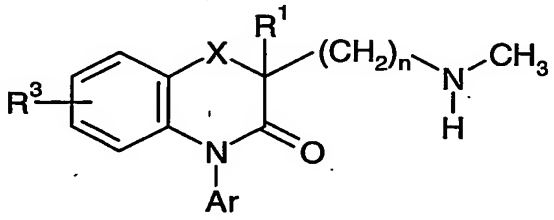
a compound of formula (IC)



(IC)

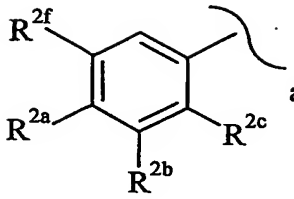
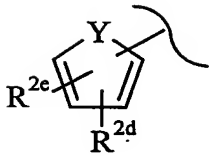
wherein: A is S or O; R is H; Ar is a phenyl group optionally substituted with 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 substituents each independently selected from C_1-C_4 alkyl, O(C_1-C_4 alkyl), S(C_1-C_4 alkyl), halo, hydroxy, CO_2(C_1-C_4 alkyl), pyridyl, thiophenyl and phenyl optionally substituted with 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 substituents each independently selected from halo, C_1-C_4 alkyl, or O(C_1-C_4 alkyl); X is a phenyl group optionally substituted with 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 substituents each independently selected from halo, C_1-C_4 alkyl, or O(C_1-C_4 alkyl); a C_1-C_4 alkyl group; a C_3-C_6 cycloalkyl group or a CH_2(C_3-C_6 cycloalkyl) group; R' is H or C_1-C_4 alkyl; each R^1 is independently H or C_1-C_4 alkyl; wherein each above-mentioned C_1-C_4 alkyl group is optionally substituted with one or more halo atoms; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; with the proviso that, when A is O, X is a C_1-C_4 alkyl group, a C_3-C_6 cycloalkyl group or a CH_2(C_3-C_6 cycloalkyl) group;

a compound of formula (ID)



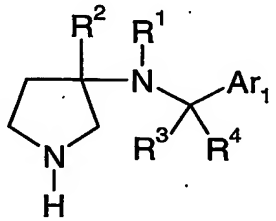
(ID)

wherein -X- is –C(R^4R^5)-, -O- or –S-; n is 2 or 3; R^1 is H or C_1-C_4 alkyl; R^3 is H, halo, C_1-C_4 alkyl, O(C_1-C_4 alkyl), nitrile, phenyl or substituted phenyl; R^4 and R^5 are each independently selected from H or C_1-C_4 alkyl; Ar- is selected from the group consisting of

(i)  and (ii) 

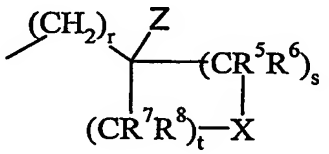
in which R^{2a} is H, halo, methyl or ethyl; R^{2b} is H, halo or methyl; R^{2c} is H, halo, methyl, trifluoromethyl, nitrile, or methoxy; R^{2d} is H, halo, methyl or ethyl; R^{2e} is H, halo, methyl, trifluoromethyl, nitrile, or methoxy; R^{2f} is H, or fluoro; -Y- is –O-, -S- or –N(R^6)-; and R^6 is H or methyl or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

a compound of formula (IE)

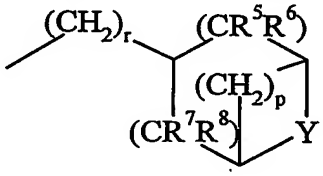


(IE)

wherein R^1 is C_1-C_6 alkyl (optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 halo substituents and/or with 1 substituent selected from -S-(C_1-C_3 alkyl), -O-(C_1-C_3 alkyl) (optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 F atoms), -O-(C_3-C_6 cycloalkyl), -SO_2-(C_1-C_3 alkyl), -CN, -COO-(C_1-C_2 alkyl) and –OH); C_2-C_6 alkenyl; -$(CH_2)_q$-Ar_2; or a group of formula (i) or (ii)



(i)

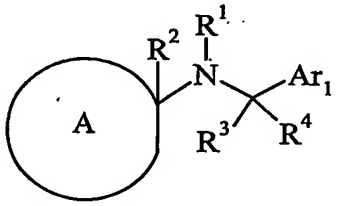


(ii)

R^2, R^3 and R^4 are each independently selected from hydrogen or C_1-C_2 alkyl; R^5, R^6, R^7 and R^8 are at each occurrence independently selected from hydrogen or C_1-C_2 alkyl; -X- is a bond, -CH_2-, -CH=CH-, -O-, -S-, or -SO_2-; -Y- is a bond, -CH_2- or -O-; -Z is hydrogen, –OH or -O-(C_1-C_3 alkyl); p is 0, 1 or 2; q is 0, 1 or 2; r is 0 or 1; s is 0, 1, 2 or 3; t is 0, 1, 2 or 3; Ar_1 is phenyl, pyridyl, thiazolyl, benzothiophenyl or naphthyl; wherein said phenyl, pyridyl or thiazolyl group may be substituted with 1, 2 or 3 substituents each independently selected from halo, cyano, C_1-C_4 alkyl (optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 F atoms), -O-(C_1-C_4 alkyl) (optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 F atoms) and -S-(C_1-C_4 alkyl) (optionally

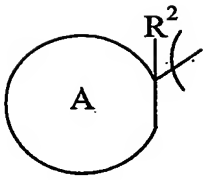
substituted with 1, 2 or 3 F atoms) and/or with 1 substituent selected from pyridyl, pyrazole, phenyl (optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 halo substituents) and phenoxy (optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 halo substituents); and wherein said benzothiophenyl or naphthyl group may be optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 substituents each independently selected from halo, cyano, C_1-C_4 alkyl (optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 F atoms), -O-(C_1-C_4 alkyl) (optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 F atoms), and -S-(C_1-C_4 alkyl) (optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 F atoms); Ar_2 is naphthyl, pyridyl, thiazolyl, furyl, thiophenyl, benzothiophenyl, or phenyl, wherein said naphthyl, pyridyl, thiazolyl, furyl, thiophenyl, benzothiophenyl, or phenyl may be substituted with 1, 2 or 3 substituents each independently selected from halo, C_1-C_4 alkyl (optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 F atoms) and -O-(C_1-C_4 alkyl) (optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 F atoms); or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; provided that (a) the cyclic portion of the group of formula (i) must contain at least three carbon atoms and not more than seven ring atoms; (b) when –X- is –CH=CH-, then the cyclic portion of the group of formula (i) must contain at least five carbon atoms; and (c) when –Z is –OH or -O-(C_1-C_3 alkyl), then –X- is -CH_2-; (d) when –Y- is –O- then p cannot be 0; and (e) the compound 3-[(phenylmethyl)-(3S)-3-pyrrolidinylamino]-propanenitrile is excluded;

a compound of formula (IF)

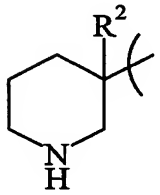


(IF)

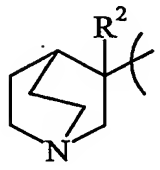
wherein



is a group of formula (a) or (b)



or



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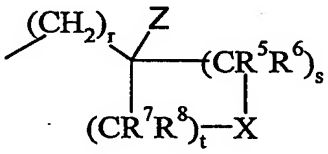
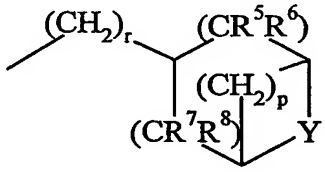
(a) (b)

R^1 is C_1-C_6 alkyl (optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 halo substituents and/or with 1 substituent selected from -S-(C_1-C_3 alkyl), -O-(C_1-C_3 alkyl) (optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 F atoms), -O-(C_3-C_6 cycloalkyl), -SO_2-(C_1-C_3 alkyl), -CN, -COO-(C_1-C_2 alkyl) and –OH); C_2-C_6 alkenyl; -$(CH_2)_q$-Ar_2; or a group of formula (i) or (ii)





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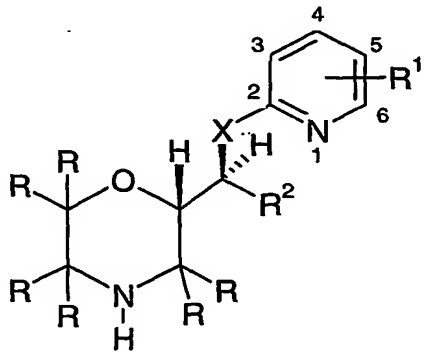
(i) (ii)

R^2, R^3 and R^4 are each independently selected from hydrogen or C_1-C_2 alkyl; R^5, R^6, R^7 and R^8 are at each occurrence independently selected from hydrogen or C_1-C_2 alkyl; -X- is a bond, -CH_2-, -CH=CH-, -O-, -S-, or -SO_2-; -Y- is a bond, -CH_2- or -O-; -Z is hydrogen, –OH or -O-(C_1-C_3 alkyl); p is 0, 1 or 2; q is 0, 1 or 2; r is 0 or 1; s is 0, 1, 2 or 3; t is 0, 1, 2 or 3; Ar_1 is phenyl, pyridyl, thiazolyl, benzothiophenyl or naphthyl; wherein said phenyl, pyridyl or thiazolyl group may be substituted with 1, 2 or 3 substituents each independently selected from halo, cyano, C_1-C_4 alkyl (optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 F atoms), -O-(C_1-C_4 alkyl) (optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 F atoms) and -S-(C_1-C_4 alkyl) (optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 F atoms) and/or with 1 substituent selected from pyridyl, pyrazole, phenyl (optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 halo substituents), benzyl and phenoxy (optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 halo substituents); and wherein said benzothiophenyl or naphthyl group may be optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 substituents each independently selected from halo, cyano, C_1-C_4 alkyl (optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 F atoms), -O-(C_1-

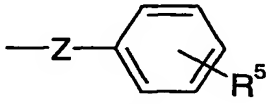
C_4 alkyl) (optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 F atoms), and -S-(C_1-C_4 alkyl) (optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 F atoms); Ar_2 is naphthyl, pyridyl, thiazolyl, furyl, thiophenyl, benzothiophenyl, or phenyl, wherein said naphthyl, pyridyl, thiazolyl, furyl, thiophenyl, benzothiophenyl, or phenyl may be substituted with 1, 2 or 3 substituents each independently selected from halo, C_1-C_4 alkyl (optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 F atoms) and -O-(C_1-C_4 alkyl) (optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 F atoms); or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; provided that (a) the cyclic portion of the group of formula (i) must contain at least three carbon atoms and not more than seven ring atoms; (b) when –X- is –CH=CH-, then the cyclic portion of the group of formula (i) must contain at least five carbon atoms; and (c) when –Z is –OH or -O-(C_1-C_3 alkyl), then –X- is -CH_2-; and (d) when –Y- is –O- then p cannot be 0;

a compound of formula (IG)



(IG)

wherein -X- is -S- or -O-; each R is independently selected from H or C_1-C_4 alkyl; R^1 is H, C_1-C_4 alkyl, C_1-C_4 alkoxy, halo, cyano, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, -NR^3R^4, -$CONR^3R^4$, -$COOR^3$ or a group of the formula (i)



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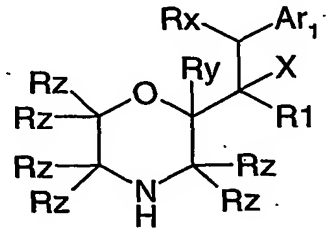
(i)

R^2 is C_1-C_4 alkyl, phenyl or phenyl substituted with 1, 2 or 3 substituents each independently selected from C_1-C_4 alkyl, C_1-C_4 alkoxy, nitro, hydroxy, cyano, halo, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, benzyl, benzyloxy, -NR^6R^7, -$CONR^6R^7$, $COOR^6$, -$SO_2NR^6R^7$ and -SO_2R^6; R^5 is selected from C_1-C_4 alkyl, C_1-C_4 alkoxy, carboxy, nitro, hydroxy, cyano, halo, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, benzyl, benzyloxy, -NR^8R^9, -$CONR^8R^9$, -$SO_2NR^8R^9$ and -

SO_2R^8; R^3, R^4, R^6, R^7, R^8 and R^9 are each independently selected from H or C_1- C_4 alkyl; and -Z- is a bond, $-CH_2-$, or –O-; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof and

a compound of formula (IH)



(IH)

wherein,

X is OH, C1-C4 alkoxy, NH_2 or NH(C1-C4 alkyl);

Rx is H or C1-C4 alkyl;

Ry is H or C1-C4 alkyl;

each Rz group is independently H or C1-C4 alkyl, with the proviso that not more than 3 Rz groups may be C1-C4 alkyl;

R1 is C1-C6 alkyl (optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 halogen atoms and/or with 1 substituent selected from C1-C4 alkylthio (optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 fluorine atoms), C1-C4 alkoxy (optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 fluorine atoms), C3-C6 cycloalkoxy, C1-C4 alkylsulfonyl, cyano, -CO-O(C1-C2 alkyl), -O-CO-(C1-C2 alkyl) and hydroxy); C2-C6 alkenyl (optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 halogen atoms); C3-C6 cycloalkyl (optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 halogen atoms and/or with 1 substituent selected from C1-C4 alkoxy and hydroxy) wherein one C-C bond within the cycloalkyl moiety is optionally substituted by an O-C, S-C or C=C bond; C4-C7 cycloalkylalkyl (optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 halogen atoms and/or with 1 substituent selected from C1-C4 alkoxy and hydroxy) wherein one C-C bond within the cycloalkyl moiety is optionally substituted by an O-C, S-C or C=C bond; or CH_2Ar2; and

Ar1 and Ar2 are each independently a phenyl ring or a 5- or 6-membered heteroaryl ring each of which is optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 substituents (depending upon the number of available substitution positions) each independently selected from C1-C4 alkyl (optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 halogen atoms), C1-C4 alkoxy (optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 halogen atoms), C1-C4 alkylthio (optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 halogen atoms), -CO-O(C1-C4 alkyl), cyano, -NRR, -CONRR, halo and hydroxy

and/or with 1 substituent selected from pyridyl, thiophenyl, phenyl, benzyl and phenoxy each of which is optionally ring-substituted with 1, 2 or 3 substituents each independently selected from halogen, C1-C4 alkyl (optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 halogen atoms), C1-C4 alkoxy (optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 halogen atoms), carboxy, nitro, hydroxy, cyano, -NRR, -CONRR, SO_2NRR and SO_2R); and

each R is independently H or C1-C4 alkyl;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

2. Use of a selective norepinephrine reuptake inhibitor for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of hot flashes, vasomotor symptoms, impulse control disorders, or personality change due to a general medical condition,

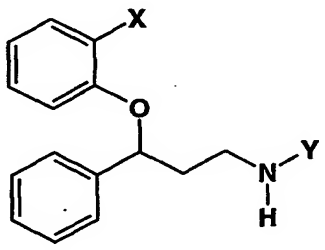
wherein said selective norepinephrine reuptake inhibitor is selected from the group consisting of:

atomoxetine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

racemic reboxetine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

(S,S) reboxetine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

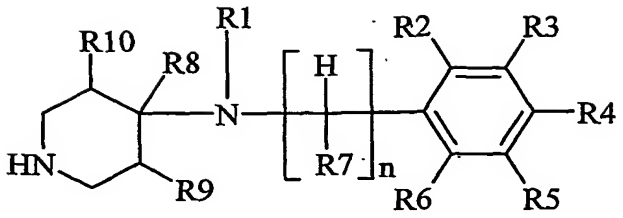
a compound of formula (I):



(I)

wherein X is C_1-C_4 alkylthio, and Y is C_1-C_2 alkyl, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

a compound of formula (IA):

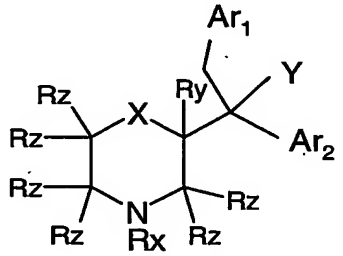


(IA)

wherein n is 1, 2 or 3; R1 is C_2-C_{10}alkyl, C_2-C_{10}alkenyl, C_3-C_8cycloalkyl or C_4-C_{10}cycloalkylalkyl, wherein one C-C bond within any cycloalkyl moiety is optionally substituted by an O-C, S-C or C=C bond and wherein each group is optionally substituted with from 1 to 7 halogen substituents and/or with from 1 to 3 substituents each independently selected from hydroxy, cyano, C_1-C_4alkyl, C_1-C_4alkylthio (optionally substituted with from 1 to 3 halogen atoms) and C_1-C_4alkoxy (optionally substituted with from 1 to 3 halogen atoms); R2 is H, C_1-C_4alkyl (optionally substituted with from 1 to 7 halogen atoms), C_1-C_4alkyl-$S(O)_x$- wherein x is 0, 1 or 2 (optionally substituted with from 1 to 7 halogen atoms), C_1-C_4alkoxy (optionally substituted with from 1 to 7 halogen atoms), cyano, halogen, phenyl (optionally substituted with from 1 to 3 substituents each independently selected from halogen, C_1-C_4alkyl and C_1-C_4alkoxy), phenoxy (optionally substituted with from 1 to 3 substituents each independently selected from halogen, C_1-C_4alkyl and C_1-C_4alkoxy) or -CO_2(C_1-C_4alkyl), or together with R3 forms a further benzene ring (optionally substituted with from 1 to 3 substituents each independently selected from halogen, C_1-C_4alkyl and C_1-C_4alkoxy); R3 is H, C_1-C_4alkyl (optionally substituted with from 1 to 7 halogen atoms), C_1-C_4alkyl-$S(O)_x$- wherein x is 0, 1 or 2 (optionally substituted with from 1 to 7 halogen atoms), C_1-C_4alkoxy (optionally substituted with from 1 to 7 halogen atoms), cyano, halogen, phenyl (optionally substituted with from 1 to 3 substituents each independently selected from halogen, C_1-C_4alkyl and C_1-C_4alkoxy), phenoxy (optionally substituted with from 1 to 3 substituents each independently selected from halogen, C_1-C_4alkyl and C_1-C_4alkoxy) or -CO_2(C_1-C_4alkyl), or together with R2 or R4 forms a further benzene ring (optionally substituted with from 1 to 3 substituents each independently selected from halogen, C_1-C_4alkyl and C_1-C_4alkoxy); R4 is H, C_1-C_4alkyl (optionally substituted

with from 1 to 7 halogen atoms), C_1-C_4alkyl-S(O)$_x$- wherein x is 0, 1 or 2 (optionally substituted with from 1 to 7 halogen atoms), C_1-C_4alkoxy (optionally substituted with from 1 to 7 halogen atoms), cyano, halogen, phenyl (optionally substituted with from 1 to 3 substituents each independently selected from halogen, C_1-C_4alkyl and C_1-C_4alkoxy), phenoxy (optionally substituted with from 1 to 3 substituents each independently selected from halogen, C_1-C_4alkyl and C_1-C_4alkoxy) or -CO_2(C_1-C_4alkyl), or together with R3 forms a further benzene ring (optionally substituted with from 1 to 3 substituents each independently selected from halogen, C_1-C_4alkyl and C_1-C_4alkoxy); R5 is H, C_1-C_4alkyl (optionally substituted with from 1 to 7 halogen atoms), C_1-C_4alkoxy (optionally substituted with from 1 to 7 halogen atoms) or halogen; R6 is H, C_1-C_4alkyl (optionally substituted with from 1 to 7 halogen atoms), C_1-C_4alkoxy (optionally substituted with from 1 to 7 halogen atoms) or halogen; R7 is H or C_1-C_4alkyl; R8 is H or C_1-C_4alkyl; R9 is H, halogen, hydroxy, cyano, C_1-C_4alkyl or C_1-C_4alkoxy; and R10 is H, halogen, hydroxy, cyano, C_1-C_4alkyl or C_1-C_4alkoxy; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, with the proviso that the compound N-ethyl-N-benzyl-4-piperidinamine is excluded;

a compound of formula (IB):

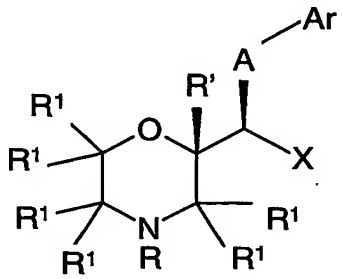


(IB)

wherein Rx is H; Ry is H or C_1-C_4 alkyl; each Rz is independently H or C_1-C_4 alkyl; X represents O; Y represents OH or OR; R is C_1-C_4 alkyl; Ar_1 is a phenyl ring or a 5- or 6-membered heteroaryl ring each of which may be substituted with 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 substituents (depending upon the number of available substitution positions) each independently selected from C_1-C_4 alkyl, O(C_1-C_4 alkyl), S(C_1-C_4 alkyl), halo, hydroxy, pyridyl, thiophenyl and phenyl optionally substituted with 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 substituents each independently selected from halo, C_1-C_4 alkyl, or O(C_1-C_4 alkyl); and Ar_2 is a phenyl ring or a 5- or 6-membered

heteroaryl ring each of which may be substituted with 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 substituents (depending upon the number of available substitution positions) each independently selected from C_1-C_4 alkyl, O(C_1-C_4 alkyl) and halo; wherein each above-mentioned C_1-C_4 alkyl group is optionally substituted with one or more halo atoms; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

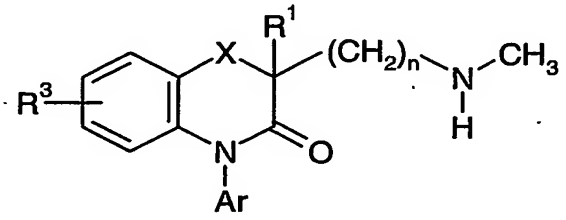
a compound of formula (IC)



(IC)

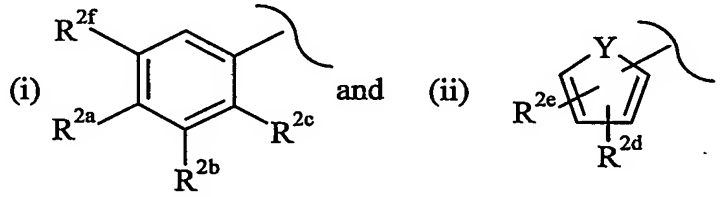
wherein: A is S or O; R is H; Ar is a phenyl group optionally substituted with 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 substituents each independently selected from C_1-C_4 alkyl, O(C_1-C_4 alkyl), S(C_1-C_4 alkyl), halo, hydroxy, CO_2(C_1-C_4 alkyl), pyridyl, thiophenyl and phenyl optionally substituted with 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 substituents each independently selected from halo, C_1-C_4 alkyl, or O(C_1-C_4 alkyl); X is a phenyl group optionally substituted with 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 substituents each independently selected from halo, C_1-C_4 alkyl, or O(C_1-C_4 alkyl); a C_1-C_4 alkyl group; a C_3-C_6 cycloalkyl group or a CH_2(C_3-C_6 cycloalkyl) group; R' is H or C_1-C_4 alkyl; each R^1 is independently H or C_1-C_4 alkyl; wherein each above-mentioned C_1-C_4 alkyl group is optionally substituted with one or more halo atoms; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; with the proviso that, when A is O, X is a C_1-C_4 alkyl group, a C_3-C_6 cycloalkyl group or a CH_2(C_3-C_6 cycloalkyl) group;

a compound of formula (ID)



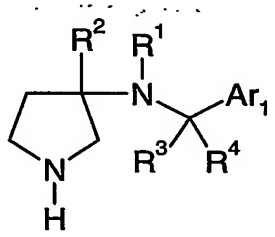
(ID)

wherein -X- is $-C(R^4R^5)-$, -O- or –S-; n is 2 or 3; R^1 is H or C_1-C_4 alkyl; R^3 is H, halo, C_1-C_4 alkyl, O(C_1-C_4 alkyl), nitrile, phenyl or substituted phenyl; R^4 and R^5 are each independently selected from H or C_1-C_4 alkyl; Ar- is selected from the group consisting of



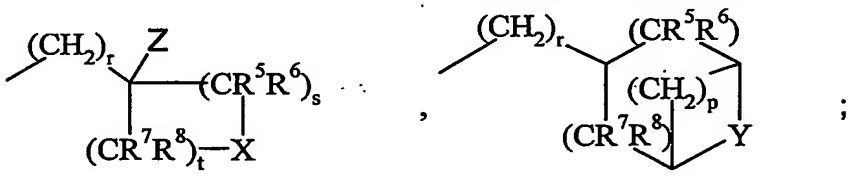
in which R^{2a} is H, halo, methyl or ethyl; R^{2b} is H, halo or methyl; R^{2c} is H, halo, methyl, trifluoromethyl, nitrile, or methoxy; R^{2d} is H, halo, methyl or ethyl; R^{2e} is H, halo, methyl, trifluoromethyl, nitrile, or methoxy; R^{2f} is H, or fluoro; -Y- is –O-, -S- or $-N(R^6)-$; and R^6 is H or methyl or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

a compound of formula (IE)



(IE)

wherein R^1 is C_1-C_6 alkyl (optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 halo substituents and/or with 1 substituent selected from -S-(C_1-C_3 alkyl), -O-(C_1-C_3 alkyl) (optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 F atoms), -O-(C_3-C_6 cycloalkyl), $-SO_2$-(C_1-C_3 alkyl), -CN, -COO-(C_1-C_2 alkyl) and –OH); C_2-C_6 alkenyl; $-(CH_2)_q$-Ar_2; or a group of formula (i) or (ii)

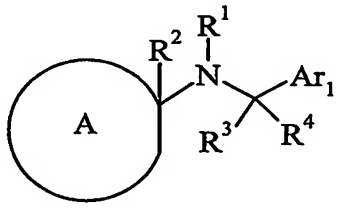


(i) (ii)

R^2, R^3 and R^4 are each independently selected from hydrogen or C_1-C_2 alkyl; R^5, R^6, R^7 and R^8 are at each occurrence independently selected from hydrogen or C_1-C_2 alkyl; -X- is a bond, $-CH_2$-, -CH=CH-, -O-, -S-, or $-SO_2$-; -Y- is a bond, $-CH_2$- or -O-; -Z is hydrogen, –OH or -O-(C_1-C_3 alkyl); p is 0, 1 or 2; q is 0, 1 or 2; r is 0 or 1; s is 0, 1, 2 or 3; t is 0, 1, 2 or 3; Ar_1 is phenyl, pyridyl, thiazolyl, benzothiophenyl or naphthyl; wherein said phenyl, pyridyl or

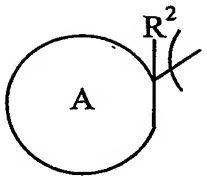
thiazolyl group may be substituted with 1, 2 or 3 substituents each independently selected from halo, cyano, C_1-C_4 alkyl (optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 F atoms), -O-(C_1-C_4 alkyl) (optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 F atoms) and -S-(C_1-C_4 alkyl) (optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 F atoms) and/or with 1 substituent selected from pyridyl, pyrazole, phenyl (optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 halo substituents) and phenoxy (optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 halo substituents); and wherein said benzothiophenyl or naphthyl group may be optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 substituents each independently selected from halo, cyano, C_1-C_4 alkyl (optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 F atoms), -O-(C_1-C_4 alkyl) (optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 F atoms), and -S-(C_1-C_4 alkyl) (optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 F atoms); Ar_2 is naphthyl, pyridyl, thiazolyl, furyl, thiophenyl, benzothiophenyl, or phenyl, wherein said naphthyl, pyridyl, thiazolyl, furyl, thiophenyl, benzothiophenyl, or phenyl may be substituted with 1, 2 or 3 substituents each independently selected from halo, C_1-C_4 alkyl (optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 F atoms) and -O-(C_1-C_4 alkyl) (optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 F atoms); or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; provided that (a) the cyclic portion of the group of formula (i) must contain at least three carbon atoms and not more than seven ring atoms; (b) when –X- is –CH=CH-, then the cyclic portion of the group of formula (i) must contain at least five carbon atoms; and (c) when –Z is –OH or -O-(C_1-C_3 alkyl), then –X- is -CH_2-; (d) when –Y- is –O- then p cannot be 0; and (e) the compound 3-[(phenylmethyl)-(3S)-3-pyrrolidinylamino]-propanenitrile is excluded;

a compound of formula (IF)

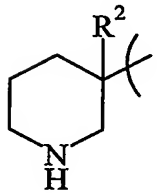


(IF)

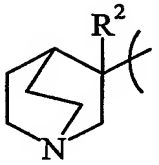
wherein



is a group of formula (a) or (b)



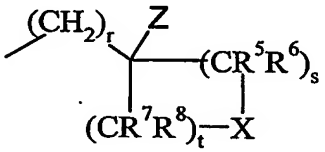
or

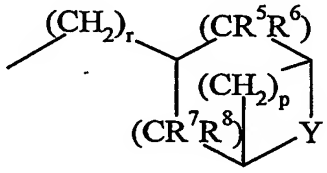


;

(a) (b)

R^1 is C_1-C_6 alkyl (optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 halo substituents and/or with 1 substituent selected from -S-(C_1-C_3 alkyl), -O-(C_1-C_3 alkyl) (optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 F atoms), -O-(C_3-C_6 cycloalkyl), -SO_2-(C_1-C_3 alkyl), -CN, -COO-(C_1-C_2 alkyl) and –OH); C_2-C_6 alkenyl; -$(CH_2)_q$-Ar_2; or a group of formula (i) or (ii)





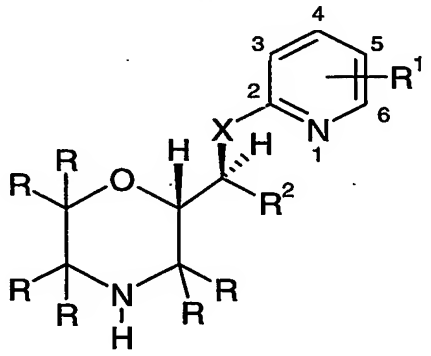
;

(i) (ii)

R^2, R^3 and R^4 are each independently selected from hydrogen or C_1-C_2 alkyl; R^5, R^6, R^7 and R^8 are at each occurrence independently selected from hydrogen or C_1-C_2 alkyl; -X- is a bond, -CH_2-, -CH=CH-, -O-, -S-, or -SO_2-; -Y- is a bond, -CH_2- or -O-; -Z is hydrogen, –OH or -O-(C_1-C_3 alkyl); p is 0, 1 or 2; q is 0, 1 or 2; r is 0 or 1; s is 0, 1, 2 or 3; t is 0, 1, 2 or 3; Ar_1 is phenyl, pyridyl, thiazolyl, benzothiophenyl or naphthyl; wherein said phenyl, pyridyl or thiazolyl group may be substituted with 1, 2 or 3 substituents each independently selected from halo, cyano, C_1-C_4 alkyl (optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 F atoms), -O-(C_1-C_4 alkyl) (optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 F atoms) and -S-(C_1-C_4 alkyl) (optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 F atoms) and/or with 1 substituent selected from pyridyl, pyrazole, phenyl (optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 halo substituents), benzyl and phenoxy (optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 halo substituents); and wherein said benzothiophenyl or naphthyl group may be optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 substituents each independently selected from halo, cyano, C_1-C_4 alkyl (optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 F atoms), -O-(C_1-

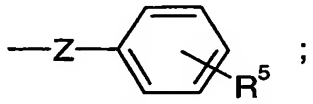
C_4 alkyl) (optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 F atoms), and -S-(C_1-C_4 alkyl) (optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 F atoms); Ar_2 is naphthyl, pyridyl, thiazolyl, furyl, thiophenyl, benzothiophenyl, or phenyl, wherein said naphthyl, pyridyl, thiazolyl, furyl, thiophenyl, benzothiophenyl, or phenyl may be substituted with 1, 2 or 3 substituents each independently selected from halo, C_1-C_4 alkyl (optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 F atoms) and -O-(C_1-C_4 alkyl) (optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 F atoms); or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; provided that (a) the cyclic portion of the group of formula (i) must contain at least three carbon atoms and not more than seven ring atoms; (b) when –X- is –CH=CH-, then the cyclic portion of the group of formula (i) must contain at least five carbon atoms; and (c) when –Z is –OH or -O-(C_1-C_3 alkyl), then –X- is -CH_2-; and (d) when –Y- is –O- then p cannot be 0;

a compound of formula (IG)



(IG)

wherein -X- is -S- or -O-; each R is independently selected from H or C_1-C_4 alkyl; R^1 is H, C_1-C_4 alkyl, C_1-C_4 alkoxy, halo, cyano, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, -NR^3R^4, -$CONR^3R^4$, -$COOR^3$ or a group of the formula (i)

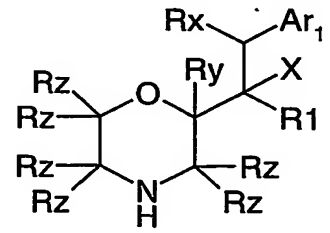


(i)

R^2 is C_1-C_4 alkyl, phenyl or phenyl substituted with 1, 2 or 3 substituents each independently selected from C_1-C_4 alkyl, C_1-C_4 alkoxy, nitro, hydroxy, cyano, halo, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, benzyl, benzyloxy, -NR^6R^7, -$CONR^6R^7$, $COOR^6$, -$SO_2NR^6R^7$ and -SO_2R^6; R^5 is selected from C_1-C_4 alkyl, C_1-C_4 alkoxy, carboxy, nitro, hydroxy, cyano, halo, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, benzyl, benzyloxy, -NR^8R^9, -$CONR^8R^9$, -$SO_2NR^8R^9$ and -

SO_2R^8; R^3, R^4, R^6, R^7, R^8 and R^9 are each independently selected from H or C_1- C_4 alkyl; and -Z- is a bond, $-CH_2-$, or –O-; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof and

a compound of formula (IH)



(IH)

wherein,

X is OH, C1-C4 alkoxy, NH_2 or NH(C1-C4 alkyl);

Rx is H or C1-C4 alkyl;

Ry is H or C1-C4 alkyl;

each Rz group is independently H or C1-C4 alkyl, with the proviso that not more than 3 Rz groups may be C1-C4 alkyl;

R1 is C1-C6 alkyl (optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 halogen atoms and/or with 1 substituent selected from C1-C4 alkylthio (optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 fluorine atoms), C1-C4 alkoxy (optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 fluorine atoms), C3-C6 cycloalkoxy, C1-C4 alkylsulfonyl, cyano, -CO-O(C1-C2 alkyl), -O-CO-(C1-C2 alkyl) and hydroxy); C2-C6 alkenyl (optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 halogen atoms); C3-C6 cycloalkyl (optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 halogen atoms and/or with 1 substituent selected from C1-C4 alkoxy and hydroxy) wherein one C-C bond within the cycloalkyl moiety is optionally substituted by an O-C, S-C or C=C bond; C4-C7 cycloalkylalkyl (optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 halogen atoms and/or with 1 substituent selected from C1-C4 alkoxy and hydroxy) wherein one C-C bond within the cycloalkyl moiety is optionally substituted by an O-C, S-C or C=C bond; or CH_2Ar2; and

Ar1 and Ar2 are each independently a phenyl ring or a 5- or 6-membered heteroaryl ring each of which is optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 substituents (depending upon the number of available substitution positions) each independently selected from C1-C4 alkyl (optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 halogen atoms), C1-C4 alkoxy (optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 halogen atoms), C1-C4 alkylthio (optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 halogen atoms), -CO-O(C1-C4 alkyl), cyano, -NRR, -CONRR, halo and hydroxy

and/or with 1 substituent selected from pyridyl, thiophenyl, phenyl, benzyl and phenoxy each of which is optionally ring-substituted with 1, 2 or 3 substituents each independently selected from halogen, C1-C4 alkyl (optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 halogen atoms), C1-C4 alkoxy (optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 halogen atoms), carboxy, nitro, hydroxy, cyano, -NRR, -CONRR, SO_2NRR and SO_2R); and

each R is independently H or C1-C4 alkyl;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

3. The method of claim 1 or the use of claim 2, wherein said selective norepinephrine reuptake inhibitor is atomoxetine hydrochloride.